

Message Text

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43

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O R 161500Z APR 75 ZFF4

FM AMCONSUL TIJUANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 972

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS TIJUANA 0101

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC MX

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON AMERICAN PRISONERS

REF: STATE 83531

CONGEN TIJUANA HAS NO RECORD IN JAN 2, 1974 THROUGH MARCH 75 FILES OF HAVING MADE WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS TO GOM CONCERNING POINTS IN PARAGRAPH ONE REFTEL. ORAL REPRESENTATIONS OCCASIONALLY HAVE BEEN MADE AS FOLLOWS:

1. MID-DECEMBER 1974 CONSUL CALLED ON NEWLY APPOINTED WARDEN OF TIJUANA JAIL (CARLOS MURGUIA) TO EXPRESS INTEREST IN AMCIT PRISONERS AND DESIRE TO IMMEDIATELY BE INFORMED OF DETENTIONS.

2. ON MARCH 31, 1975, CONSUL CALLED ON DIRECTOR DE SEGURIDAD PUBLICA MUNICIPAL AT ENSENADA CONCERNING MATHEW MOEN, A 16 YEAR OLD WHO WAS DETAINED MARCH 19, 1975 ON MINOR THEFT CHARGE. MOEN ALLEGED HE WAS NOT PERMITTED TO TELEPHONE FAMILY UNTIL MARCH 22 AND CONSULATE WAS NOT NOTIFIED OF HIS ARREST. THE DIRECTOR OF SEGURIDAD, WHERE MOEN WAS HELD BECAUSE HE IS A MONOR STATED HE WOULD PERMIT U.S. CITIZENS TO NOTIFY THE CONSULATE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ARREST. THE SAME DATE THE CONSULAR OFFICER CALLED ON THE MUNICIPAL JAIL WARDEN, THE DIRECTOR OF TOURISM AND THE ENSENADA MAYOR TO ENLIST THEIR COOPERATION IN NOTIFYING THE CONSULATE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ARRESTS.

3. JOSEPH PALACIO AND TWO COMPANIONS WERE ARRESTED APRIL 5, 1975 FOR ALLEGEDLY CREATING A DISTURBANCE IN A BAR. WHEN VISITED BY UNCLASSIFIED

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CONSULAR DUTY OFFICER APRIL 6 HE CLAIMED THE POLICE USED A CATTLE

PROD ON HIM. HIS TWO COMPANIONS MADE NO SUCH COMPLAINT. A CONSULAR OFFICER CALLED ON THE CHIEF OF THE STATE JUDICIAL POLICE IN TIJUANA REGARDING PALACIO'S MALTREATMENT. THE JUDICIAL POLICE CHIEF STATED HE HAS INSTRUCTIONS FROM MEXICO CITY NOT TO MISTREAT ANY PRISONER. ANY UNUSUAL TREATMENT MAY HAVE BEEN PRECIPITATED BY PALACIO AND COMPANIONS WHO PULLED KNIVES AT THE TIME OF THE APPREHENSION HE SAID, WHEN ONE OFFICER'S SHOULDER WAS SLASHED, AND A BARTENDER STABBED.

OTHER INFORMAL REPRESENTATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE DURING ROUTINE VISITS TO JAILS AND PRISONS. A SCHEDULE OF VISITS FOLLOWS:

TIJUANA MUNICIPAL JAIL - DAILY VISIT BY CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVE. IN CASE OF SERIOUS OFFENSE A FOLLOW-UP VISIT IS MADE BY A CONSULAR OFFICER.

LA MESA PRISON - VISIT BY CONSULAR ASSISTANT EACH FRIDAY WITH THE EXCEPTION OF HOLIDAYS. ASSISTANT IS ACCOMPANIED BY A CONSULAR OFFICER THE LAST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH.

MONTHLY VISITS WERE MADE TO ENSENADA, LA PAZ AND MEXICALI AS FOLLOWS:

ENSENADA: DEC. 27, 73, JAN. 28, 74, FEB. 19, 74, MAR. 19, 74, APR. 15, 74, MAY 6, 74, JUNE 6, 74, JULY 8, 74, AUG. 5, 74, SEPT. 21, 74, OCT. 13, 74, NOV. 5, 74, DEC. 20, 74, JAN. 12, 75, FEB. 18, 75, MAR. 30, 75.

LA PAZ: NOV. 13, 74, JAN. 22, 75.

MEXICALI: DEC. 20, 73, JAN. 25, 74, FEB. 21, 74, MAR. 14, 74, APR. 17, 74, MAY 20, 74, JUNE 12, 74, JULY 23, 74, AUG. 21, 74, SEPT. 26, 74, OCT. 26, 74, NOV. 13, 74, DEC. 10, 74, JAN. 21, 75, FEB. 25, 75, MAR. 31, 75.

NO ONE IMPRISONED LA PAZ ON LONG TERM BASIS UNTIL NOVEMBER 1974. DEHART

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